

What's New in Indiana

Discover an ever-changing Indiana.

Think you've explored every corner of Indiana? Not likely. Throughout the state, new destinations—and updates to your "previously explored" favorites—give you new spots to discover all spring and summer long.

Introduce your family to a dinosaur family.

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis (800.208.KIDS) welcomes kids of all ages, even kids who are 65 million years old. This June 11, the museum opens "Dinosphere: Now You're in Their World," one of the largest displays of real juvenile and family dinosaur fossils in the country. Among the characters you'll meet: Bucky, a teenage T. rex who, measuring 34 feet long and 10 feet tall, is almost as large as an adult T. rex. (At 33% complete, he's the sixth most complete T. rex.); and Baby Louie, an Oviraptor with some bird-like characteristics. "Dinosphere" focuses on the Cretaceous Period with fossil scenes, hands-on activities and a large collection of dinosaur art.

Be sure to thank the cows.

Want to make milk more exciting to your kids? Take them to the Fair Oaks Dairy Adventure (219.394.2025) in Fair Oaks. It's a chance to learn about the dairy industry through interactive displays, video presentations, and a tour of a modern dairy farm. Board a bus and tour a farm to see the feeding, milking and care of dairy cows.

The art of fabric.

At the beginning of the 20th century, a woman named Marie Webster designed beautiful quilts and operated a successful pattern business. In July, the Marie Webster House in Marion, where she resided from 1902 to 1942, begins its new life as Quilters Hall of Fame (765.664.9333).

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Get your taste buds ready.

Across Indiana, you'll find more than 40 wineries offering tours, tastings and some fine Indiana vintages. Among the newest: Carousel Winery (812.277.9750) in Bedford, which opened in August of 2003. Currently, Carousel Winery offers eight varieties, including grape-based and fruit wines. In Jasper, Kapp Winery (812.482.6115) opened its doors in the fall of 2003. The Oak Hill Winery (765.395.3718) in Converse and Carmel's Grape Inspirations Winery also opened this past year.

When water served as roads.

In the 1800s, the nation's longest canal, the Wabash and Erie Canal, ran from Toledo, Ohio, to Evansville. Although these waterways have given way to superhighways, the city of Delphi, Indiana, hasn't forgotten the impact of the canal on American history. Volunteers have brought to life the Wabash and Erie Canal Park Conference and Interpretive Center (765.564.2870). The 12,000-square-foot facility's museum galleries include more than 60 exhibits. True historians can hike, bike or walk the 1850s canal, a seven-mile trail system.

A new park every year.

Holiday World and Splashin' Safari (877 GO FAMILY) in Santa Claus keeps growing. This year, the park unveils more additions to its world-class roller coasters, family friendly kids' area, and cool water park: Jungle Racer, the first 10-lane racing slide complex ever built. It's a water slide, so you're guaranteed to cool off even if you're in hot competition with other sliders ! The new Jungle Jets area features 163 water elements, such as geysers and drenching spray arches.

More to do in Amish Country.

With so many wonderful things to eat at Das Dutchman Essenhaus Village in Middlebury (800.455.9471), you may want to plan a weekend around eating there. The opening of the Essenhaus Inn & Conference Center (574.825.0052) makes that easier than ever. Additional guest rooms (50, to be exact) have been added to the existing facility, along with a pool and fitness area and a game room. Work up an appetite in the indoor pool; then head back to the restaurant for more homemade pie and noodles. At the Essenhaus Village Shops, you'll find gifts and collectible items and a bakery filled with treats to take home.

The nearby town of Shippshewana, known for its flea market and auction (260.768.4129) is also home to Menno-Hof (260.768.4117), an interpretive center presenting the history, beliefs and lifestyles of the Amish and the Mennonites, and Riegsecker Marketplace (888.447.4275), home of handcrafted furniture and collectibles. For overnight guests, Shippshewana's Farmstead Inn & Conference Center (260.768.4595) continues to grow. Guests can enjoy a beautiful three-story atrium, a swimming pool/recreation building (which includes a kiddie pool, basketball court, and exercise room) and a food court/dining area. Additional growth includes retail space, a farmers' market and a conference center.

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A little bit of France. A one-of-a-kind destination.

If the department store counters have left your wish for the perfect fragrance unfulfilled, perhaps it's time to visit Atlanta, Indiana. This small town may seem like an unlikely spot to create sophisticated scents, but, in fact, it's the home of Le Studio des Parfums (765.292.2059). This make-your-own-perfume franchise is the only one of its kind in the United States and only the third in the world. Patrons can take a two-hour class in scent making and take home a 50 ml bottle of perfume with a personalized label. (The shop also sells pre-made perfumes.) While in France, owner Judy Peters discovered scent making. It took some convincing to get the French company, Galimard, to allow a franchise here, but company representatives were impressed with Atlanta's ability to draw visitors, so they eventually agreed. Today, along with the studio, Judy Peters operates an accompanying bed and breakfast.

To learn more about Indiana's ever-growing, ever-changing destinations, visit EnjoyIndiana.com.